

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02497 081249Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 JUSE-00 SNM-05 SSO-00
/022 W

-----016438 081252Z /43

O 081208Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3735
INFO DEA NEW YORK R.O.
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS DEA FOR ENOM, ENOE (XD-78-0001);
PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652 N.A.
TAGS: SNAR, US, SP
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION CASE OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER PETER
SANDMEIER

1. PETER SANDMEIER, A SWISS CITIZEN, IS SUBJECT OF
U.S. INDICTMENT HANDED DOWN BY GRAND JURY IN EASTERN
DISTRICT OF NY ON MARCH 2, 1978. HE HAS BECOME KEY
WITNESS IN U.S. CASE AGAINST OTHER MAJOR NARCOTIC
TRAFFICKERS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT AUTHORIZATION
TO SEND NOTE TO SPANISH AUTHORITIES INDICATING U.S.
INTENTION TO FILE EXTRADITION REQUEST SHOULD BE
RECEIVED WITHIN NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS.

2. CASE IS COMPLICATED DUE TO FACT THAT SANDMEIER IS
PRESENTLY BEING HELD BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES ON
BASIS OF AN EXTRADITION REQUEST FROM SWITZERLAND ON
CHARGE OF ROBBERY. EXTRADITION CASE IS SCHEDULED
TO COME BEFORE SPANISH JUDGE FOR DECISION ON MARCH 14.
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PAGE 02 MADRID 02497 081249Z

3. IN VIEW OF U.S. INTEREST IN SANDMEIER BECAUSE OF
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AMBASSADOR RAISED CASE INFORMALLY
WITH SWISS AMBASSADOR MARCH 6. LATTER WAS UNFAMILIAR
WITH SWISS EXTRADITION REQUEST, BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD
BE WILPSNG,,\$?-*470?,\$94 9 43173 53\$, TO RAISE MATTER
WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES IN BERN TO DETERMINE WHETHER
SWISS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO WITHDRAW THEIR

REQUEST IN FAAOR OGOXS. REQUEST. AMBASSADOR TOLDSJWISS
AMBASSADOR HE WOULD CONSULT WITH WASHINGTON AND BE BACK
IN TOUCH.

4. DEPT MAY WISH TO INSTRUCT EMBASSY BERN TO REQUEST
SWISS GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW ITS EXTRADITION REQUEST.
IF SO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ACT WITHOUT DELAY IN
VIEW OF MARCH 14 CONSIDERATION OF SWISS REQUEST BY
SPANISH JUDGE.

5. IF SWISS DO NOT AGREE, EMBASSY MADRID COULD STILL
APPROACH SPANISH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WITH REQUEST SPAIN
HONOR U.S. REQUEST BECAUSE OF SERIOUS NATURE OF
SANDMEIER'S CRIME IN U.S. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, PREDICT
WHAT SPANISH JUDGE WOULD DECIDE.

6. IN ANY EVENT WE STRONGLY URGE THAT AUTHORIZATION
AND ACTUAL EXTRADITION REQUEST BE FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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